LITERACY SOURCE

OUR MISSION:
Literacy Source partners with adults working to gain skills and education to create new opportunities for themselves, their families and the community.

OUR VISION:
We envision an inclusive and equitable society providing education and opportunities for all adults.

OUR VALUES:

Lifelong Learning.
We believe that all adults can learn and grow.

Equity.
We create equal access to education because systemic injustices and oppression lead to unequal opportunities and barriers to participation.

Inclusion.
We foster an inclusive and multicultural space in which all cultures, traditions, social identities, and ways of knowing are respected and welcomed.

Collaboration.
We seek out the knowledge and experience of our community and work with others on shared goals.

Integrity.
We are honest and accountable to each other and our community.

Celebration.
We believe learning is fun and empowering and deserves to be celebrated alongside the community we’re building together.
Goals and Foundational Principals

Our instruction, both in our center and in the community, is learner-centered and competency-based. We follow the Career and College Readiness standards, and through contextualized, project-based learning, our learners build their basic skills of reading, writing, math, listening, and speaking, as well as the basic digital literacy skills to apply to contexts in their individual lives, communities, families, and workplaces. On the individual learner level, our instruction is adaptive to the needs of our learners with a mixture of classes and tutor support. At the program level, we are flexible and nimble, able to develop programs to quickly meet community needs. We utilize a mixture of professional staff and teachers as well as trained volunteers to meet learners’ individual needs.

Teaching and Assessment Methods

In our instruction, we set content-based themes for each class. These themes are set by the program or community need, but are narrowed down or focused through collaborative goal-setting with learners. Within these themes, teachers address the College and Career Readiness standards in listening, speaking, reading, writing, and math, regardless of the type of class (ESOL/ABE/High School Completion). All instruction is contextualized – skills are learned while implementing projects. Teachers also integrate digital literacy skills, such as using technology to collaborate and communicate, and workforce skills, such as time management or group work, into every class. We encourage reflective teaching practices with teachers and learners working together to set learning goals. Students then demonstrate their progress towards those goals through projects or other evaluations. Both teachers and students reflect on the learning trajectory and experience to continually work together to build an effective learning community.

To measure student progress, we use a number of standardized and individualized assessments. At the program level, we use CASAS tests in listening, reading, and math. Also at the program level, we give a writing test and reading sub-skills tests for sight words and phonics. These assessments provide useful diagnostic information as well as a means to measure progress. We also have assessment tools used to goal-set and measure progress for workplace readiness skills & digital literacy skills which are used across our programs. Within each class, student progress is measured through multiple means including quizzes, portfolios, and projects. Our classes are competency-based, meaning that we measure student success by what they can do. Therefore, every term, each class ends in a culminating project (e.g. written document, video, presentation, etc.) where students demonstrate and celebrate the skills they have practiced and learned.

Respect for Adult Learners

We recognize and appreciate the dynamic diversity of our community, and maintain a welcoming atmosphere that is respectful to all. By focusing on the needs of our learners, we often blur the traditional lines between ABE and ESOL, focusing on the basic skills we all need: the ability to listen, speak, read, write, use math, think critically and creatively, and use technology to navigate our lives. We understand that adult learners are goal-oriented and work with all our learners to set individual learning plans, and, when applicable, transition plans to further education or employment. By setting the highest standards for reflective teaching practice that is responsive to learner needs, we sustain students’ commitment to learning and path towards meeting their goals.